



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 29, 2008

### **S. 2728**

### **Twenty-First Century Water Commission Act of 2008**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
on May 21, 2008*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 2728 would establish the Twenty-First Century Water Commission. The commission's responsibilities would include projecting future water supply and demand in the United States, studying the management of that supply, and preparing a comprehensive strategy for its management in the future. The bill would require the commission to complete that work within three years.

Assuming appropriation of the amount specified in the legislation, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2728 would cost \$9 million over the 2009-2013 period. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 2728 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2728 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009- 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	2	3	2	2	0	9
Estimated Outlays	1	2	3	3	0	9

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2728 will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2009 and that the \$9 million authorized to be appropriated by the bill will be provided over the next four years. Estimates of spending are based on historical spending patterns of similar activities.

S. 2728 would require the President and the Congress to appoint nine members of the commission before it could meet. CBO expects that the commission would hold its first meeting in the second half of fiscal year 2009 and that the commission would issue its final report in 2012.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 2728 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATES**

On October 15, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 135, the Twenty-First Century Water Commission Act of 2007, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 10, 2007. The Natural Resources Committee's version of the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$9 million for the proposed commission.

On May 22, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 135 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 15, 2008. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's version of the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$12 million for the proposed commission.

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